

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A method for modifying the development of a plant comprising:

transforming a plant cell with a nucleic acid encoding a CDC27A protein that is at least 95% homologous to SEQ ID NO: 2,

producing a plant or plant part from said transformed cell; and

selecting a plant or plant part that has at least one modified phenotype compared to a plant produced from a corresponding untransformed plant cell;

wherein said modified phenotype is selected from the group consisting of increased plant organ size, increased numbers of a plant organ, and earlier flowering, compared to a plant obtained from the corresponding untransformed plant cell.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid sequence encodes a polypeptide that is at least 99% homologous to SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid sequence encodes a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said plant cell is transformed with a plasmid vector containing said nucleic acid sequence.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ ~~ede27a~~ nucleic acid encoding a CDC27A protein ~~sequence~~ is obtained from a dicotyledonous plant.

Claims 6-7 (Cancelled)

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid sequence is introduced in a sense direction into a plant.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein expression of said nucleic acid is driven by a constitutive promoter.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said modified phenotype is an increased plant organ size compared to a plant produced from a corresponding untransformed plant cell.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 10, wherein said plant organ is a leaf or a stem.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said modified phenotype is an increase in the numbers of at least one plant organ compared to a plant produced from a corresponding untransformed plant cell.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said modified phenotype is an increase in the numbers of leaves, flowers, or seeds compared to a plant produced from a corresponding untransformed plant cell.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid sequence further comprises one or more non-native or non-endogenous control sequences

that regulate the expression of said nucleic acid sequence in said transformed plant cell; and optionally, a transcription termination sequence.

Claim 15 (Cancelled)

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid encoding a CDC27A protein that is at least 95% homologous to SEQ ID NO: 2 further comprises

one or more control sequence(s) capable of regulating expression of the nucleic acid sequence of (i) in a plant; and/or

a transcription termination sequence.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): A transgenic plant obtained by the method according to claim 1, or its transgenic progeny, wherein said plant or its transgenic progeny has a modified phenotype selected from the group consisting of increased plant organ size, increased numbers of a plant organ, and earlier flowering, compared to a plant obtained from the corresponding untransformed plant cell.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The plant of claim 17 having earlier flowering when compared to a plant obtained from the corresponding untransformed plant cell.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The plant according to claim 17,  
wherein said plant is a monocotyledonous plant, and/or  
wherein said plant is selected from rice, maize, wheat, barley, millet, soybean,  
leguminosae, rapeseed, sunflower, canola, alfalfa, sugarcane, popular, tobacco, and cotton.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A transgenic plant part or a propagule from a  
transgenic plant according to claim 17 or its progeny;  
wherein said transgenic plant part or propagule has a modified phenotype selected  
from the group consisting of increased plant organ size, increased numbers of a plant organ,  
and earlier flowering, compared to a plant obtained from the corresponding untransformed  
plant cell.

Claims 21-23 (Cancelled)

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): A plant or plant part comprising  
a genetic construct that comprises  
a nucleic acid sequence encoding a CDC27A protein that is at least 95% homologous  
to SEQ ID NO: 2;  
one or more non-native or non-endogenous control sequences that regulate the  
expression of said nucleic acid sequence in a transformed plant cell; and optionally  
a transcription termination sequence,  
wherein said plant or plant part has a modified phenotype selected from the group  
consisting of increased plant organ size, increased numbers of a plant organ, and earlier  
flowering, compared to a plant obtained from the corresponding untransformed plant cell.

Claims 25-29 (Canceled)

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): A food product comprising the transgenic plant according to claim 17 or a transgenic part of said plant.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): An animal feed or food comprising the transgenic plant according to claim 17 or a transgenic part of said plant.

Claims 32-33 (Cancelled)

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The plant according to claim 24,  
wherein said plant is a monocotyledonous plant, and/or  
wherein said plant is selected from rice, maize, wheat, barley, millet, soybean, leguminosae, rapeseed, sunflower, canola, alfalfa, sugarcane, poplar, tobacco, and cotton.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): A transgenic plant part, a propagule or progeny obtained from the transgenic plant according to claim 24;

wherein said plant part, propagule or progeny has a modified phenotype selected from the group consisting of increased plant organ size, increased numbers of a plant organ, and earlier flowering, compared to a plant obtained from the corresponding untransformed plant cell.

Claims 36-37 (Cancelled)

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): A method for modifying the development of a plant or a plant structure compared to an unmodified plant, comprising:

transforming a plant cell with a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2 or a sequence having at least 95% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 2, and

cultivating a plant or plant part from said transformed cell,

wherein said plant or plant part has increased plant organ size, increased numbers of a plant organ, or earlier flowering compared to a corresponding plant or plant part obtained from a corresponding untransformed plant cell.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 38, further comprising selecting a plant which has accelerated development compared to a plant obtained from the corresponding untransformed wild-type plant.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 38, further comprising selecting a plant which has a plant organ of increased size, an increased number of plant organs, or early flowering compared to a plant obtained from the corresponding untransformed wild-type plant.